# INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Survey	No.	M-30-19
Survey	NO.	_M-J0-1-/

# MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I.	Geographic Region:		
	Eastern Shore Western Shore	(all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil) (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)	
X	Piedmont	(Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)	
	Western Maryland	(Allegany, Garrett and Washington)	
II.	Chronological/Developmental Pe	Periods:	
	Paleo-Indian Early Archaic Middle Archaic Late Archaic Early Woodland Middle Woodland Late Woodland/Archaic Contact and Settlement Rural Agrarian Intensification Agricultural-Industrial Transi Industrial/Urban Dominance Modern Period Unknown Period ( prehistor	A.D. 1870-1930 A.D. 1930-Present storic historic)	
III.	Prehistoric Period Themes:	IV. Historic Period Themes:	
	Subsistence Settlement  Political Demographic Religion Technology Environmental Adaption	Agriculture X Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning Economic (Commercial and Industrial) Government/Law Military Religion Social/Educational/Cultural Transportation	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
v. I	Resource Type:		
	Category: <u>Building</u>		
	HIBCOLIC BHVII OHMOID	ural	
	Historic Function(s) and Use(	e(s): <u>Domestic - Single Family</u>	
	Known Design Source: unkn	known	

#### ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1.	Name:	Davis	Form
	AT CALLE OF	Davis	F 21 1 1 1 1

- 2. Planning Area/Site Number: 30/19
  3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 20
- 4. Address: Rock Spring Drive & 10500 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda

5. Classification Summary

Category building Previous Survey Recording M-NCPPC

Ownership private Title and Date: 1976 Inventory of Historical Sites

Status occupied (Davis) unoccupied (Veirs) Accessible no Federal State County Local

Present use private residence

6. Date:c.1852-Old Veirs House 7. Original Owner: Samuel Clark Veirs. Jr. (house)
1926-Mansion Floyd Davis (mansion)

8. Apparent Condition

excellent (Davis)

a. deteriorated (Veirs). altered c. original site

9. Description: The original Veirs farmhouse, now deteriorated and unused, is a three bay two story weatherboard structure, resting on a stone foundation. The facade consists of a central paneled door with sidelights and transom in the Greek Revival style. The door is sheltered by a gable roofed porch. The doorway is flanked by a four-over-four light window. Inside the south gable end is a Chimney flue. The slate gable roof is in ruinous condition, with a gaping hole. A two-story ell attached to the west length was enlarged by a two-story one bay addition.

The Floyd Davis house is a handsome fieldstone structure in the Colonial devival style. It has a two story four bay main block and two wings. The principal block has six-over-six light windows with green shutters and a paneled door with leaded sidelights and fanlight on the south bay. Inside each gable end are large stone chimneys. The roof is covered by slate. The north and south wings are one-and-a-half stories, three bays in length.

The grounds feature grand old maples, box, magnolia and holly trees, and

are bordered by a manicured hedge.

10. Significance: This impressive, extensive estate which at one time comprised some 400 acres under the ownership of Floyd E. Davis, contains elements of a mid-19th century farmstead, a turn of the century agricultural complex, and an early 20th century estate mansion.

The oldest building upon the estate is the frame dwelling house situated on the tract adjacent to Old Georgetown Road built by Hester and Samuel Clark Viers Jr., in 1852. Viers and his brother operated a flourishing merchant mill

on Rock Creek.

Floyd and Walter Davis bought the property in 1921. Floyd Davis had founded the Floyd E. Davis realty company in 1898. He built the mansion around 1926 and lived there until his death in 1961. His widow, Norene, still lives in the house although most of the farm has been sold for development.

- Researcher and date researched: Mark Walston-7/79; Gail Rothrock, Arch.Desc.
  - 12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock

13. Date Compiled: 10/79

14. Designation

15. Acreage: 10.791 (Davis house/Veirs house)

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

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#### CONDITION

**CHECK ONE** 

**CHECK ONE** 

XEXCELLENT (Davis) XDETERIORATED (Veirs)

\_\_UNALTERED

XORIGINAL SITE

GOOD \_\_FAIR

\_\_UNEXPOSED

\_\_RUINS

XALTERED \_\_MOVED

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original Veirs farmhouse, now deteriorated and unused, is a three bay two story weatherboard structure, resting on a stone foundation. It faces east toward Old Georgetown Road and is located back about 300 yards from the road. The facade consists of a central paneled door with sidelights and transom in the Greek Revival style. The door is sheltered by a gable roofed porch. The doorway is flanked by a four-over-four light windows. Inside the south gable end is a chimney flue. The slate gable roof is in ruinous condition, with gaping hole. A two-story ell attached to the west length was enlarged by a two-story, one bay addition. story shed was added to the south length of the ell addition.

Nearby is a three bay by two bay one-story weatherboard structure with a raised seam metal roof and two interior stove chimneys. It is of 20th century construction and might have been a servants quarters, either for the Veirs farmhouse or for the Davis mansion. A board and batten carriage shed is attached to the servants quarters.

The Floyd Davis house, built c. 1926, is in the Colonial Revival This handsome fieldstone house has a two story four bay main block style. and two wings. The principal block has six-over-six light windows with green shutters and a paneled door with leaded sidelights and fanlight of the south bay. Inside each gable end are large stone chimneys, flanked in the gable by small two-over-two light windows. The roof is covered by slate and its eaves are decorated by a boxed cornice with moldings. rear (west) length of the main block is four bays with six-over-six light windows in the second floor. The first floor is three bays, with a door in the south bay. In the central bay three double-hung windows are surmounted by a segmented arch.

The south wing is one-and-a-half stories, three bays in length. It has a stone first story and a frame second story with dormers. It has an exterior stone chimney on the south end and a shed porch supported by columns. The north wing is one-and-a-half stories. It has three bays with dormer windows in the slate roof. Attached to it is a stone one story wing with a shed roof. It probably houses the kitchen.

A square brick building (about 4' x 4') with a hip roof sits back

about 25 yards from the rear of the house.

The grounds are bordered by a manicured hedge with stone posts flanking the entrance to the driveway off Old Georgetown Road. The winding driveway passes old maples and mature shrubs and encircles magnificant old box, magnolia, and holly trees.

Mike Dwyer, 1973:

The main farm, off Old Bell's Mill Road (across from IBM now) had a two story, L-shaped farmhouse and several very large barns and outbuildings. It was apparently a model farm in the early 1900's; some of these buildings may date from before that time. In 1975 it was rapidly being surrounde by an Industrial Park.

PERIOD	AF	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION			
1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE			
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE			
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN			
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER			
<b>_</b> ₹ 800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION			
X1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X_OTHER (SPECIFY)			
		INVENTION		Local history			

# SPECIFIC DATES C. 1852 - Old Veirs Builder/ARCHITECT house; 1926 - Mansion

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This impressive, extensive estate which at one time comprised some 400 acres under the ownership of Floyd E. Davis, contains elements of a mid-19th century farmstead, a turn of the century agricultural complex, and an early 20th century estate mansion.

The oldest building upon the estate is the frame dwelling house situated on the tract adjacent to Old Georgetown Road. Shortly after their marriage in 1851, Hester and Samuel Clark Veirs Jr., purchased 80 acres here from John Braddock for \$1,000. The house was constructed in 1852.

Samuel Clark Veirs, Jr., was a member of a noted Montgomery County family, and with his brother operated a flourishing merchant mill on Rock Creek. Veirs died in 1898. Hester Veirs and a number of her children continued to occupy the old homestead. Hester Veirs died in 1905 and by her will left her estate to her daughter, Sarah H. Veirs. However, Sarah Veirs holdings were held in trust by her siblings, who decided to sell the farm.

The improvements on the home farm, being the original 80 acres and containing all improvements except a hay barrack, were described in 1909 by Benjamin A. Bean, a neighboring farmer, as "getting old, badly need of repair and roofs leaking". The Veirs farm was purchased on November 27, 1909, by Zaidee L. Nichols of Venango Co., Pennsylvania, for \$200 per acre for the 80 acres. An agreement was drawn up by which possession was was given to Nichols December 15, 1909, allowing the Veirs heirs the privilege of remaining on the farm until April 1, 1910.

Zaidee Nichols died in 1913, and the property then passed to her husband Hosea Nichols, and their only child, Roy. In 1919, the 80.91 acres were conveyed by the Nicholses to the Citizens Bank Company of Oil City, Pennsylvania, which sold the parcel to Fred Smith of Alexandria, Virginia. Less than a week later, the parcel was conveyed by Smith to Floyd D. Davis and Walter G. Davis of Washington, D.C. Four years later, in 1925, Walter Davis transferred his interest in the property to Floyd Davis.?

Floyd Davis was born and reared on a farm in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He left the farm in 1890, coming to Washington to work for the Henry Wex real estate company, which, eight years later, Davis bought and reorganized as the Floyd E. Davis Company, realtors, and organization thich his son runs today. In 1905, he organized the Columbia Permanent Building Association, in conjunction with a group of Washington businessmen, and in 1907 was one of the original board of directors of the Dimes Savings Bank. Over the years he served on numerous boards and committees, and for a period was director of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY Sandy Spring, Maryland.

(continued on Attachment Sheet A)

MAGI:

Davis had never lost his love of farm life, and, in 1913, he began purchasing a number of tracts situated north and adjacent to Bell's Mill Road, near its intersection with the Old Georgetown Road. The largest of these tracts were: 88 acres, purchased from the Florence F. Norris estate on November 20, 1913; and 164 3/8 acres obtained from George C. Dawson, widower, of Oklahoma, purchased February 20, 1915. It was upon this land that Floyd Davis constructed the existing farm complex (c. 1916), in its time extensive operation of which Mr. Davis devoted the greater part to the raising of Black Angus cattle.

Around 1926, Floyd Davis built on the old Veirs property a mansion which he called "Rock Spring". He lived in this spacious dwelling until his death in 1961 at age 91. (His wife, Norene Davis, is currently living in the mansion, although in poor health.) At the time of Mr. Davis' death, buildings on the estate comprised the main residence, the old Veirs house (which had become the caretaker's house), two modern frame houses, and the Davis farmstead, which was described in the inventory of the estate as "functionally obsolescent".

After Mr. Davis' death, the property passed to his wife and two children, who own the property today. It has been extensively developed since 1961 with shopping centers and large office complexes.

#### FOOTNOTES

- 1. Deed JGH 1/75, Montgomery County Land Records (January 19, 1852).
- 2. Will HCA 4/238, Montgomery County Orphan's Court Records (Probated September 26, 1905).
- 3. Deposition 7/305, Montgomery County Equity Records.
- 4. Ibid., loc. cit.
- 5. Montgomery County Land Records 280/37 (March 22, 1919); 310/275 (April 21, 1921).
- 6. Ibid., 310/275 (April 16, 1921).
- 7. Ibid., 444/377 (November 28, 1925).
- 8. Ibid., 238/455; 248/386.
- 9. Inventory VMB 139/392, Montgomery County Orphan's Court Records.

M:30-19

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Montgomery County Land Records
Montgomery County Equity Records
Montgomery County Orphan's Court Records
Montgomery County Sentinel, 7/4/61, Davis obit.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

### 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10.791 acres (manor house/Veirs house)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

### 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Gail Rothrock Arch. Description Mark Walston ORGANIZATION DATE Sugarloaf Regional Trails STREET & NUMBER TELÈPHONE 926-4510 Box 87 CITY OR TOWN STATE Dickerson 20753 Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438

#### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

# NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

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Dav	is Farm				
AND/OR HISTORIC:			·····		
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			<u> </u>	in progress	■ No
PRESENT USE (Check On	e or More as Appropri	ate)			
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This is the twentieth-century estate of the Davis family, and is rapidly being surrounded by an Industrial Park located between 70-S and Democracy Blvd. (Farm auction held just recently.) It was apparently a model farm in the early 1900's, and there is an extensive complex of buildings here that may date from before that time. A three-bay, two-story, clapboard farmhouse sits near Old Georgetown Rd. This has 6/6 windows and an internal chimney flue.

The main farm, off Old Bell's Mill Rd. (across from IBM now), has a two-story, L-shaped farmhouse and several very large barns and outbuildings.

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	Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
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	Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	
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DAUIS FARM LOCATION 6501 BELL'S MILL RD., BETHESDA, MD.

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M: #30-19E NAME DAUIS FARM LOCATION 10500 OLD GEORGETOWN RD., BETHESDA, MD. FACADE PHOTO TAKEN 5/14/75 M. DWYER



11; #30-19E DAUIS FARM NAME LOCATION 6501 BELL'S MILL RD., BETHESDA, MO FACADE NE PHOTO TAKEN S/14/75 M. DWYER



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